Amendment To The Claims

Please amend claims 9 and 13 as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Previously presented) A method for the computer aided monitoring of process parameters of a manufacturing process of a physical object comprising:

storing an unspecific value for a hierarchical level if no specific value is stored in an object data record corresponding to the hierarchical level;

storing process data for at least one process parameter for a corresponding hierarchical object data record;

comparing the stored process data with a stored limit value for the corresponding hierarchical object data record having a specific value; and

iteratively processing the hierarchical levels of the object data record having a specific value with the stored process data from a highest hierarchical level to the next-lower hierarchical level, wherein the object data record having a specific value has object data that identifies a logistical level of the physical object, the logistical level assigned to the hierarchical level having a limit value for at least one process parameter being stored and corresponding to the hierarchical object data record.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the physical object is a wafer.

3.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hierarchical levels correspond to logistical levels of the manufacturing process.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein an unspecific limit value is stored for a process parameter by using unspecific object data.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a value of the at least one process parameter is measured.

2

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hierarchical
levels are sorted according to a predeterminable sorting criterion.

7.   (Previously presented) A device for the computer-aided monitoring of
process parameters of a manufacturing process of a physical object, said device
comprising:
        a processor that is configured to carry out the following method:
                storing an unspecific value for a hierarchical level if no specific
value is stored in an object data record corresponding to the hierarchical level;
                storing process data for at least one process parameter for a
corresponding hierarchical object data record;
                comparing process data stored for the corresponding object
data record with a stored limit value for the corresponding object data record;
                iteratively processing the hierarchical level of the object data
record of the stored process data according to a predeterminable hierarchy from a
highest hierachical level to a next-lower hierarchical level, and repeating the
comparing and the iteratively processing until the processing has reached a lowest
hierarchical level, wherein the object data record has object data that identifies a
logistical level of the physical object, the logistical level assigned to the hierarchical
level with a limit value for at least one process parameter being stored and
respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record.

8.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium,
that stores a program for monitoring a manufacturing process of a physical object,
the computer-readable storage medium configured to execute the following method:
        storing an unspecific value for a hierarchical level if no specific value is
stored in an object data record for the hierarchical level;
        storing process data for at least one process parameter for a
corresponding hierarchical object data record;
        comparing process data stored for the corresponding object data
record with a stored limit value for the corresponding object data record;
        iteratively processing the hierarchical level of the object data record of
the stored process data according to a predeterminable hierarchy from a highest

3

hierachical level to a next-lower hierarchical level, and repeating the comparing and the iteratively processing until the processing has reached a lowest hierarchical level, wherein the object data record has object data that identifies a logistical level of the physical object, the logistical level assigned to the hierarchical level with a limit value for at least one process parameter being stored and respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record.

        9.   (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program element~~ <u>architecture</u> for ~~the~~ monitoring ~~of~~ a manufacturing process of a physical object, object data ~~which identify~~ <u>that identifies</u> the physical object being assigned to various hierarchical levels, object data of various hierarchical levels being grouped to form hierarchical object data records, limit values for at least one process parameter being stored and respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record, process data of the at least one process parameter, measured during the manufacture of the physical object, being stored and the hierarchical object data records corresponding to the object data being determined for the physical object manufactured, the ~~element configuring a processor~~ architecture configured to perform the following method:

        storing an unspecific value for the hierarchical level if no specific value is stored in the object data record for the hierarchical level;

        storing process data for at least one process parameter for a corresponding hierarchical object data record;

        comparing the process data stored for the corresponding object data records with the stored limit values for the corresponding object data records;

        iteratively processing the hierarchical level of the object data record of the stored process data according to a predeterminable hierarchy from a highest hierachical level to a next-lower hierarchical level, and repeating the comparing and the iteratively processing until the processing has reached a lowest hierarchical level, wherein the object data record has object data that identifies a logistical level of the physical object, the logistical level assigned to the hierarchical level with a limit value for at least one process parameter being stored and respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record.

4

10.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the unspecific value of the hierarchical level of the object record is used in the iteratively processing if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.

11.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 7, wherein the unspecific value of the hierarchical level of the object record is used in the iteratively processing if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.

12.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein the unspecific value of the hierarchical level of the object record is used in the iteratively processing if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.

13.   (Currently amended) The computer program element architecture of claim 9, wherein the unspecific value of the hierarchical level of the object record is used in the iteratively processing if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.

5